

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1530

To prohibit an agency or department of the United States from establishing or implementing an internal policy that discourages or prohibits the selection of a resort or vacation destination as the location for a conference or event, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 29, 2009

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. ENSIGN, and Mr. MARTINEZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit an agency or department of the United States from establishing or implementing an internal policy that discourages or prohibits the selection of a resort or vacation destination as the location for a conference or event, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Resort Cit-
5 ies from Discrimination Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Tourism, including conventions and meet-
2 ings, is an important part of the United States econ-
3 omy that generates billions of dollars in tax revenues
4 for many localities.

5 (2) Analysts estimate that approximately 90
6 percent of employers in the travel industry are small
7 businesses and more than 12 percent of United
8 States employees are employed by the travel indus-
9 try.

10 (3) Many local economies around the country
11 have developed into destinations for vacationers and
12 conventioners alike, and those local economies de-
13 pend on the travel industry to support local employ-
14 ment, create new jobs, and generate tax revenues for
15 critical public services.

16 (4) These same destinations are home to large
17 and small businesses that have unique skills, amen-
18 ities, and resources for planning and facilitating
19 meetings and conventions for all purposes and, con-
20 sequently, may deliver value and convenience for in-
21 dividuals and organizations in need of a location for
22 an official event.

23 (5) Locating an official event in such a city fre-
24 quently may save taxpayer dollars, as compared to
25 other locations.

1 (6) Agencies and departments of the United
2 States have a responsibility to find ways to maximize
3 taxpayer dollars in conducting official business, in-
4 cluding planning and conducting official meetings
5 attended by Federal employees.

6 (7) In deciding where to locate an official gov-
7 ernment meeting by applying this principle of maxi-
8 mizing taxpayer dollars, government officials often
9 will conclude that many locations known as resort
10 destinations also will provide the best value and con-
11 venience for official meetings and business.

12 (8) Resort and vacation destination cities tend
13 to be affected disproportionately during economic
14 downturns and, therefore, are especially vulnerable
15 to discrimination by meeting and convention plan-
16 ners, which could exacerbate unemployment and re-
17 lated demands on United States taxpayers.

18 **SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON CERTAIN TRAVEL AND CON-**
19 **FERENCES POLICIES OF AGENCIES OF THE**
20 **UNITED STATES.**

21 No agency or department of the United States may
22 establish or implement an internal policy regarding travel,
23 event, meeting, or conference locations that discourages

- 1 or prohibits the selection of such a location because the
- 2 location is perceived to be a resort or vacation destination.

